



Department of Energy
Idaho Operations ~~Office~~
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

December 11, 2003

Mr. John M. Schaffer, Director
RWMC Clean Close Project
Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC
2525 Fremont Avenue
P.O. Box 1625
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

SUBJECT: Authorization to Commence Retrieval Operations at the Glovebox Excavator Method (GEM) Project - (EM-WM-03-129)

REFERENCE: 1. DOE Operational Readiness Review Final Report
2. Letter, S. G. Stiger to Elizabeth D. Sellers, Subject: 'READINESS TO PROCEED MEMORANDUM, DECLARATION OF READINESS FOR OU 7-10 GLOVEBOX EXCAVATOR METHOD (GEM) PROJECT DOE OPERATIONAL READINESS REVIEW (ORR),' dated November 24, 2003

Dear Mr. Schaffer:

Based upon the recommendation of the DOE Operational Readiness Review in Reference (1) and NE-ID line management **certification**, DOE authorizes a phased startup of the OU 7-10 GEM facility in accordance with PLN-1360, **Startup Plan for the Operable Unit (OU) 7-70 Glovebox Excavator Method Project.**

The Phase 1 prerequisites of PLN-1360 must be completed and validated by BBWI prior to overburden removal. In addition, the heat tape **must** be added to the **fire** protection system, and verified by NE-ID line management personnel, prior to overburden removal. The prestart finding **concerning** the installation and testing of the seals on the Retrieval Confinement Structure provided in Reference (2) must be completed and validated by NE-ID line management, and the Phase 2 prerequisites of PLN-1360 have been verified complete by BBWI, prior to waste zone material handling operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth D. Sellers".

Elizabeth D. Sellers
Manager

cc: R. Miklos, BBWI, MS 4210
J. Uptergrove, BBWI, MS 4210